



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

# NIFA's GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NIFA is committed to strengthening American agriculture through global engagement. NIFA continues to develop international partnerships and activities that promote U.S. agriculture, advance trade, serve food security and U.S. food safety needs, and foster collaboration to address mutual interests within the global agricultural science community.

Applicants to NIFA programs have opportunities to include international collaborations or activities within their proposals. Applications must be from U.S. institutions, and the proposed international collaborations or activities must advance U.S. agricultural goals.

## ***Step 1: See if your interest fits within a NIFA Competitive or Capacity grant program***

**Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)**, NIFA's flagship and largest competitive grant program has global engagement opportunities. NIFA supports global engagement that advances U.S. agricultural goals. Applicants to AFRI Requests for Application (RFAs) may include collaborations with international partners, but applications may only be submitted by eligible U.S. institutions. Such applications may include subcontracts to international partners or other institutions and must clearly demonstrate benefits to the United States. Additional information is provided on the AFRI International Partnerships webpage: <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/afri-international-partnerships>

**Other competitive grant programs with opportunities for international activities include:** 1890 Institution Teaching, Research, and Extension Capacity Grants; Higher Education Challenge Grants (HEC); Biotechnology Risk Assessment Grants (BRAG); Citrus Disease Research and Extension (CDRE); Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Fellowships (NNF); Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP); Hispanic Serving Institutions Grants (HSI); Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS); Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI); Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR); Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI); and Women and Minorities in STEM (WAMS). For details, see <https://nifa.usda.gov/opportunities-global-engagement>

**For Capacity programs (primarily land-grant institutions),** talk with your State Experiment Station Director or Extension Director. Many NIFA awardees have included international collaborations or activities in their capacity grants.



## ***Step 2: Determine how an international collaboration or activity is important in helping you to accomplish your research, education, or extension objectives***

Some examples from past NIFA awardees include: Collecting crop data twice a year rather than once by including southern hemisphere sites; testing root stock in a wider range of climatic and ecological site conditions; acquisition of genetic material from diverse crop cultivars or foreign livestock; developing or learning new techniques at a foreign laboratory; researching emerging and re-emerging plant and animal diseases in their origin countries; testing new technologies in a wider variety of settings; comparing the effectiveness of extension and technology transfer methods in different populations; addressing food safety issues in international trade improving U.S. producer ability to compete in foreign markets; providing experiential learning opportunities to U.S. students; and collaborating with researchers and foreign institutions with strong complementary expertise, or international recognition in a particular area.



For more information please visit our website at <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/global-engagement-programs> or contact Otto Gonzalez, the Director of the Center for International Programs, at [Otto.Gonzalez@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:Otto.Gonzalez@nifa.usda.gov)

### Step 3: Identify potential collaborators, institutions, or locations

You are welcome to identify potential collaborators or foreign locations utilizing your own networks and professional contacts and include in your NIFA proposals as appropriate. You may also want to utilize partnerships NIFA has developed with foreign institutions and international organizations with whom NIFA has identified areas of mutual interest. These partnerships enable NIFA awardees to collaborate with foreign researchers that have funding from their own organizations, or help NIFA awardees identify foreign collaborators they may want to write into their NIFA projects.

#### NIFA's Global Partnerships

NIFA is currently partnering with: U.S.-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD) to jointly fund water management and food safety projects; United Kingdom's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) to jointly support animal disease research; Ireland and Northern Ireland to address agricultural pests and beneficial species, animal nutrition and growth, and animal health and disease; and CATIE, the tropical agricultural research and teaching center with residential campus in Costa Rica, interested in hosting faculty-led student study/research abroad, collaborative research with visiting faculty, post-docs and doctoral students, sabbaticals, and other activities as identified in CATIE's Memorandum of Understanding with USDA. (US scientists could propose to support such activities with CATIE under their NIFA award).

For more information on these and other NIFA global partnerships, please visit our website:

<https://nifa.usda.gov/developing-global-partnerships>

**USAID Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) program** - PEER is a competitive grant program that invites scientists in developing countries to apply to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for funds to support research and capacity-building activities that will be conducted in partnership with U.S. Government funded scientists. The developing country scientists seek out active NIFA grantees. All USAID PEER funding goes to the developing country researcher to support their collaboration with the NIFA grantee.

For more information about this program and to see the current RFA with focus areas and PEER-eligible countries, please visit the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine website for PEER at

<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/peer/index.htm>

If you are a currently-active NIFA grantee, and you know of a scientist in one of the eligible countries and would like to collaborate, you may want to encourage that scientist with your assistance to develop a pre-proposal to PEER.

### Examples of NIFA Projects that include Global Engagement

Using **competitive and capacity funding**, NIFA is providing support for global engagement in many projects. Examples include:

- o Scientists at the **University of California-Riverside** collaborating with colleagues in Israel to develop a regional water reuse decision-support model that can evaluate the impacts of using treated agricultural drainage waters and treated wastewater on agricultural sustainability and water supply reliability.
- o Faculty at the **University of Arkansas, Texas A&M University, and Texas Tech University** are collaborating on a project that reaches graduate students in food and agricultural sciences by globalizing the curricula in the areas of Global Horticulture, Sustainable International Development, and Human Health and Nutrition.



Researchers at Iowa State University collaborated with researchers at the Roslin Institute of the University of Edinburgh in Scotland to better-understand resistance to Avian Pathogenic E. coli in poultry



Researchers at Kansas State University collaborated with researchers at the University of Glasgow in Scotland on how to better prepare to protect cattle from bunyaviruses transmitted by mosquitoes.



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